

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities  
Monthly Meeting  
March 21, 2018

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Staff:** David Skinner

**Start:** 11:00 a.m.

**Speaker:** Speaker had to cancel

**Report of the Executive Committee**

- Continued to discuss Goals and suggestions for the 2018 Luncheon including:
  - Looking at different award luncheon venues this year since usual venue is up for auction.
  - Streamlining plan to utilize online software such as Eventbrite.com to completely handle the registration and payment process.
  - Consider AV equipment: projector and laptop to run a slide show of pictures.
- Discussed CoD opportunity to review and make comments on pending ConPlan

**Report of the Full Body**

- **General Discussion:**
  - Review of proposed bills in current legislative session
    - HR 620 – Oppose
    - HR 2902 – Support - Full Funding of IDA: Originally passed in 1975 as 40% of school funding. Currently funds only 15%. Current proposal calls for gradual funding increase.
    - Public comment period for Architectural Barriers Law – Universal Access: Burden being placed on individuals with disabilities to alert proprietor of COMAR & Fed law showing non-compliance with ADA. 60 days to respond.
    - HB 251 – Family Life/Human Sexuality Curriculum
    - HB 1427 – Individuals with disabilities should have the same voting procedures

**Work Group Reports:**

- **Education:**
  - Pre-ETS Update: Sharon Plump, DORS. Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Training Services) is a program for students with disabilities ages 14-21 who are enrolled in a school program (including community college and certified trade school). Services include job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, post-secondary education counseling, workplace readiness training, and instruction in self-advocacy. A brochure is coming out soon about Pre-ETS services in Balt. Co – will link to providers – will go to all students, schools, TFs. Spring-Summer/Fall-Winter editions will be available.
  - School Board Election Process: A 2014 hybrid bill passed in Maryland legislature, with an agreement to begin in 2018. The governor appoints four at large members from a list of nominees submitted to him/her by a Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission. Seven councilmanic seats are open to non-partisan election. Names will not appear on primary ballot unless 3 people or more are running for the seat. Filing date is Feb 27. The school board members serve a 4 year term. They meet every other Tuesday 3:30 – 9 pm. The positions are unpaid for now, with some expense reimbursement. There is a bill in legislation now to allot \$7000 per year to school board members (most school board election campaigns average \$4000 funding for race.). Other duties: visit schools; know principals; respond to phone calls and correspondences of constituents & school staff. Checks and balances of school system. It is a very large commitment. Recent school board presidents consisted of: a land use lawyer, retired principals, attorneys and a retired journalist.
  - News from the Office of Special Ed: Ann has taken on the 0.4 Disability Awareness position along with her .5 Transition Resource Teacher position. Duties currently defined

loosely. Mary S and Joyce gave some historical perspective on the position. In the past, the job focused on assisting school create disability awareness days and was an event driven role, as well as educating classrooms about disabilities when students with disabilities became class members. There is a disability awareness binder housed at Parent Resource Center. Mary S. suggested to follow up with School nurses about resources (eg, DVD of Darius Goes West – documentary about a man with muscular dystrophy).

- HB 251 addressed in family life & sexuality, requiring that students receive education that deals with sexual consent. Mary S. wrote to Rep Steve Lafferty about health ed & family life for certificate track students. COMAR changed so that certificate kids are included in requirement for health and family educ. but it is written that they receive access to the same content as other students, not that they have particular needs for specialized curriculum around the issue. Joe Leek (health ed former dir.). Arranged for FALS CLS teachers to take special training. 40-some teachers signed up – after staff meetings- but there remains no accountability for ensuring that students receive instruction about the issues.

- **Housing:**

- Reviewed Section 504 and protocols for Reasonable Accommodation requests and Reasonable Modifications requests. Reviewed Maryland's Notice of Accessibility request procedures.
- Image Center has Housing Accessibility Modification Program (HAMP) funds available

**Announcements:**

- 6/9/2018 Maryland ASL Festival & Expo is a daylong activity designed to provide social opportunities to a Deaf and Hard of Hearing population with particular needs

**Adjournment:** 2:00 pm